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THE OLD ENGLISH *agniden*.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—One of the puzzles of glossography is the Erfurt gloss *detriturigine agnidinne*. The lemma is a strange noun, and the Old English explanation is a nonce word. It is well, therefore, that Mr. Sweet marked as questionable the entry in his dictionary *agniden(n)* f. rubbing. Now, it is noteworthy that the Harl. MS. 3376 offers this reading of the gloss: *detritu rugine agnidene* (WW. 220, 24). Since *a* and *u* are so often confounded, *u*, moreover, not seldom appears for *uu*, just as *g* does duty for *ig*, the Latin lemma may easily be read *detrita ruuigine*=*detrita rubigine*. Then, I suggest, *agnidene* stands for *agnidène*=*agnidenre* and was meant to translate *detrita* only. The reference is, if I mistake not, to *Orosius* vii, 25, 9-10 *a quo arrogantissime exceptus, ita ut per aliquot milia passuum purpuratus ante uehiculum eius cucurrisse referatur, ueruntamen hac contumelia quasi cote ad uirtutem usus est, per quam detrita regii fastus robigine aciem mentis expedit*. This same passage is probably also the source of the Epinal gloss *adrogantissime uulanchicae*=*Corpus wlonlice*, though the *adrogantissime* of vii, 35, 22 might be equally well claimed for it.

OTTO B. SCHLUTTER.

Hartford, Conn.

BRIEF MENTION.

A work of great interest to students of French dialects has just come from the publishing house of H. Welter in Paris. It is a *Glossaire des parlers du Bas-Maine*, edited by Georges Dottin, Professeur-adjoint à l'Université de Rennes. Prof. Dottin is already known as a Celtic scholar and as the author of a learned thesis on *les Désinences verbales en R en sanscrit, en italique et en celtique*; he has in preparation a short grammar of Old French. The *Glossaire* was begun in 1866 by the recently organized Société d'archéologie, sciences, arts et belles-lettres de la Mayenne, in competition for a prize of fifteen hundred francs, offered by the Ministry of Public Instruction for the best dictionary of a French dialect. The leading spirit in the enterprise was Jules Le Fizelier. In 1869, when the prize was

awarded, the collection of the Société was far from complete; and in 1883 Le Fizelier died, leaving the glossary unfinished. Two years later the Commission historique et archéologique, which had taken the place of the older Société, resumed the work for a while. Finally, in 1894, after an interval of many years, the material, together with five other large collections, was put into the hands of M. Dottin. The new editor, who brought to his task not only untiring industry and the soundest philological training, but also a personal knowledge of the dialect group in question, carried the undertaking in five years to a successful issue. The result is a handsome volume of eight hundred and thirty pages, easy to consult, and strictly scientific in method. The phonetic notation is that of Rousselot. Two texts—a real dialogue and an interesting *conte* called *la Bête de Milvain*—illustrate the speech of two localities. About a hundred pages are devoted to a thorough study of the pronunciation and grammar.

Wordsworthians who are not so fortunate as to have access to the 1798 edition of *Lyrical Ballads* will always turn with pleasure to Prof. Dowden's reprint of 1890, which with its yellowed paper and old-faced type is a very counterfeit presentment of the original; but serious students of the epoch-making little volume will welcome this new reprint,¹ enriched as it is by what M. Émile Legouis calls Mr. Hutchinson's "perhaps unrivalled knowledge of all matters relating to Wordsworth's life and poetry."

The text is in no sense a facsimile, but the introduction contains the history of the composition, publication, and reception of *Lyrical Ballads*, together with a sketch of Wordsworth's poetical and political development down to 1798. In the notes are found not only the textual variations of succeeding editions, but a store of critical and illustrative matter the more interesting for its brisk, entertaining style. Three poems written in 1798, though not published until later, are found in an appendix, and a full bibliographical note increases the value of the volume.

¹ *Lyrical Ballads* / By William Wordsworth / and S. T. Coleridge / 1798 / edited with certain poems of 1798 / and an introduction / by Thomas Hutchinson. London, Duckworth & Co., 1898.